

DONNA HOSEA
CYPRESS, CA 90630

June 23, 2003

Jeff S. Jordan
Supervisory Attorney
Central Enforcement Docket
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

2003 JUN 25 A 10:22

Re: MUR 5366 (Donna Hosea)

Dear Mr. Jordan:

I am responding to your letter notifying me of a complaint filed by the American Conservative Union with the Federal Election Commission regarding my contribution to the Edwards for President Committee

My husband and I each made a contribution to Senator Edwards because he was coming to town for a fundraiser and we wanted to support him. We were willing to contribute to his campaign committee because we could easily afford the contribution and Senator Edwards understands the valuable role trial attorney firms play in our society. Accordingly, we voluntarily made our contributions to the Edwards campaign out of our own personal funds. No one ever offered to reimburse us or otherwise reward us for our contributions and we received no reimbursement for our personal contributions.

I have been working with trial attorneys for a long time and I have gotten to know the people who have been victimized by negligence and malfeasance. Perhaps to people without knowledge of the facts, the awards we sometimes win for our clients may seem large, but I know from personal experience that the money never makes a mother who lost her child whole or a terminally ill person well. I believe in the cause of promoting justice and fairness for injured persons and safeguarding victims' rights and Senator Edwards is the strongest advocate on these issues in Washington today. I also acknowledge that our firm does well under the current system, and when the firm does well -- I do well.

I understand that the FEC is obligated to forward the complaint on to me for my response, so my frustration is not directed at you. Nevertheless, I am deeply offended by the treatment I have received based on my desire to participate in the democratic process by

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supporting a candidate in whom I believe. Has our electoral system become so exclusive now that paralegals are not permitted to make a legal contribution without arousing suspicion? In addition to this ACU complaint, I was outraged at the article that appeared in *The Hill* on May 25, 2003. The article labeled me as a "[l]ower-level employee[]" and portrayed my husband and me as financially incapable of making a \$2,000 contribution.

The article is wrong on both counts. I am a senior paralegal at Robinson, Calcagine & Robinson and have made between _____ in salary and bonuses for the last several years. My responsibilities are not "lower-level." I supervise a host of cases and some of these cases have more than 100 clients and truck loads of documents. I am sometimes the contact person with the courts for an entire team of law firms. It is not easy, but it is satisfying and has provided me with a nice living.

The article also attempts to detail my finances. It is probably not necessary to go into great detail, but I would like to correct the impression left by *The Hill's* grim portrayal. We did buy our house in 1971 for _____. Since that time, however, house prices have risen in California and we have added a beautiful second story addition and swimming pool. Under Proposition 13, our house is assessed for _____ but comparable homes in our neighborhood routinely sell for approximately _____. Our second home in Arizona has a _____ value and we now own that property free and clear. Our outstanding mortgage referred to in the article is partly due to our refinancing to take advantage of favorable rates to pay for our additions to our California home and for a business that my husband bought.

I really do not want any of this information about my personal finances made public. Please keep this information about my compensation and personal property confidential.

In conclusion, I trust this response will mark the end of my having to justify my support of the Edwards campaign. My husband and I frequently participate and vote in federal elections. We support John Edwards for president and were proud to contribute to his campaign. We think his vision will make America better and we know that his positions on tort reform and other related issues will allow me to continue doing what I love and living at a level to which we have become accustomed, and for my husband and me to retire when ready.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Hosea', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Donna Hosea
Paralegal
Robinson, Calcagine & Robinson

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